



# KARO ECHO Newsletter

## KARO ECHO

Serving the communities  
of El Cerrito and  
Kensington, California

**Web:** [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

**Facebook:**  
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

**Email:** [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

## Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz  
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz  
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

## Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
7:00 pm

Arlington Park Clubhouse,  
**(new location)**  
1120 Arlington Blvd,  
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Meeting minutes are on  
the website in the past  
events page. Thank you to  
Natalie KM6UCF.

## What's New

### KARO ECHO Meeting Sept. 9th, 1900 in El Cerrito

The KARO ECHO meeting start time continues to be 1900 (previously 1930). The location also continues to be the new Arlington Park Clubhouse location used for the past several months. The next meeting will be held on Monday September 9th at Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The training exercise will be moved to the beginning of this meeting. The first hour of the meeting will be a table-top simulation of an earthquake disaster scenario including developing a message center to triage messages passed to the EOC.

### Outcome of West County Radio Exercise, August 17th

KARO ECHO operators participated in the West County Fire Drill exercise led by DJ (KJ6DJ). El Cerrito/Kensington (on 146.415) was one of four 4 simplex ham nets (in addition to one FRS/GMRS) in West Contra Costa County that passed messages up to the regional net on the 4C's El Sobrante repeaters ([WA6KQB](#)) and ultimately over the hill to the county using a Mt Diablo repeater ([W6CX](#)). Participation on the El Cerrito net was light (about 6 operators). We handled three form [ICS213](#) messages and successfully relayed them to the regional net using formatted ICS213 digital transmissions with [FLdigi](#) and [FLmsg](#), on mode [MT63 2k long](#).

### Ham License Class and VE exam in El Cerrito

KARO ECHO and the East Bay ARC (EBARC) are jointly sponsoring a Technician license course taught by Ken Fowler (KO6NO) which began Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019, weekly from 6:30-9pm. Attendance was light at the first class, so if you know someone who is interested in getting licensed, there is still an opportunity to join this class. It will run for 10 weeks ending with a VE licensing exam on Nov. 13th (the exam is open to anyone who wants to take an exam or upgrade). The class is free. The textbook is the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 4th Edition. Books will be available for purchase. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. More information at [www.ko6no.com](http://www.ko6no.com). Register through the website, or email: [ko6no@comcast.net](mailto:ko6no@comcast.net), or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830. The location for the class is in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530 (except the Sept. 11 class is at the El Cerrito Community Center Garden Room on Moeser).

**LOCAL NETS****KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately  
after the West Contra Costa  
RACES Net, but never before  
1900 hours local time.

**West Contra County  
ACS/RACES Net**

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

**Contra Costa County HF  
EmComm/RACES Net**

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

**American Red Cross of the  
Bay Area (ARCBA)**

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

**BOARD OFFICERS**

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Vice President Pro Tem:

Don NI6A

Emergency Coordinator:

Jamuel KM6HBO

Exec Board Member at Large,  
and newsletter editor:

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

**What's New *(continued)*****Action! - Take the CERT survey**

El Cerrito/Kensington [CERT is conducting a survey](#) to help organize the trained CERT members in the community as well as recruit more. Please take this survey and spread the word about it to others in the community. It includes an opportunity to express interest in radio communications, as well as register for emergency alerts, get links to useful disaster related videos, and learn about local bulk purchase opportunities for disaster supplies like water storage containers. Every response helps our local CERT organization earn participation credits that qualify us for grant funding.

**Antenna Patch Boxes for El Cerrito Clubhouses**

The installation of antenna patch boxes on the Harding and Tassajara clubhouses (where rooftop antennas already are installed) is in the work queue for El Cerrito Public Work, but they are short staffed right now and further progress may be a few months out. Two patch boxes are built and ready to go. They each contain two separate coax connectors, as we also hope to add a separate FRS/GMRS antenna at these locations. If these installations go well, we may be able to explore install similar antennas and patch boxes at additional locations.

**KARO ECHO Mobile Radio "Go-kit" Needs a Home**

A fully featured mobile radio "go-kit" with large battery, antenna and accessories (including message forms and documentation) is available to be deployed somewhere in El Cerrito. We are looking for a secure but accessible storage location that has electricity for the battery float charger (although this could also be accomplished with a solar panel battery charger if the location receives a reasonable amount of sun). Ideally, we are seeking something like a lockable outbuilding in a backyard that could be easily reached in case of a disaster by more than one ham. If you have contacts with public or private schools (or other institutions like churches) in the city that might be able to accommodate the equipment, we would be willing to explore that option and provide some education (opportunity for licensing/training) to people associated with the host site. Contact [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net) if you have ideas on locating the radio go-kit.

**Contra Costa County Regional Radio Communication Exercise, Nov. 16**

The Nov. 16th exercise called "Light up the Bay," decided to focus on organizing CERT based communication exercises in Contra Costa County rather than the whole SF bay area. Details are still developing. KARO-ECHO may plan our own SET on another day. Contact: [LightUpTheSFBay@gmail.com](mailto:LightUpTheSFBay@gmail.com)

## Activities

### Existing Ham Outreach Mailing

A letter has been written to send to all existing hams in El Cerrito and Kensington to encourage them to become active with KARO ECHO. Thanks to Edward (KM6UBY) for his effort parsing and cleaning up the anomalies in the FCC database. The El Cerrito Fire Dept. is generously covering the postage for this mailing.

### Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. After a few recent changes, the regular NCS roster will have 9 operators. There are opportunities for others to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 7/4/2019 and 11/28/2019)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	6/20/2019	8/29/2019	10/31/2019	1/16/2020	3/19/2020	5/21/2020	7/23/2020
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	6/27/2019	9/5/2019	11/7/2019	1/23/2020	3/26/2020	5/28/2020	7/30/2020
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	7/11/2019	9/12/2019	11/14/2019	1/30/2020	4/2/2020	6/4/2020	8/6/2020
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	7/18/2019	9/19/2019	11/21/2019	2/6/2020	4/9/2020	6/11/2020	8/13/2020
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	7/25/2019	9/26/2019	12/5/2019	2/13/2020	4/16/2020	6/18/2020	8/20/2020
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	8/1/2019	10/3/2019	12/19/2019	2/20/2020	4/23/2020	6/25/2020	8/27/2020
NI6A	Don Simon	8/8/2019	10/10/2019	12/26/2019	2/27/2020	4/30/2020	7/2/2020	9/3/2020
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	8/15/2019	10/17/2019	1/2/2020	3/5/2020	5/7/2020	7/9/2020	9/10/2020
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	8/22/2019	10/24/2019	1/9/2020	3/12/2020	5/14/2020	7/16/2020	9/17/2020

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

**Action Item: Help create a deep pool of skilled NC operators.** Please contact Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net) if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

### Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications. [A list of training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website. We continue to average 14 check-ins per week, but the counts were lower over the summer. Hopefully the nets will grow again after summer vacations.

### Volunteer Leads Needed

KARO ECHO is looking for someone seek out grant opportunities and write grant applications. This important job could really help expand the scope of our activities.

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## About KARO ECHO

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KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- ♦ Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Yearly dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Mail to:

KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

### KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>. Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

### Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

### KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is still 146.415 MHz simplex. **Our secondary frequency however has been changed to 146.475 MHz simplex** thus creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency desensing.

### KARO ECHO Dues

**Action Item: Please send in your dues** to KARO ECHO -- P.O. Box 2025 -- El Cerrito, CA. 94530-3651 or see Larry at this Monday's meeting at the Arlington Park clubhouse. You can still be a non-voting member of KARO ECHO without paying dues, but only licensed Amateur Radio Operators and dues paying members will be allowed to vote. So if you can't afford \$30 for full membership (or \$40) for family membership), please come and participate in any case. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications are welcome.

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## Outreach, Education and Licensing

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### Ham License Class and VE exam in El Cerrito

A Technician license course taught by Ken Fowler (EBARC) began Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019. There is still an opportunity to join this class. It will be held weekly for 10 weeks from 6:30-9pm. A VE licensing exam will be held at the same location and time on Nov. 13th (open to anyone who wants to take an exam or upgrade). The class is free. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered by EBARC volunteer examiners for a fee of \$15. Register at [www.ko6no.com](http://www.ko6no.com), or email: [ko6no@comcast.net](mailto:ko6no@comcast.net), or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830. The location for the class is in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530

### KARO ECHO Ham Cram

The KARO ECHO Ham Cram is still in development; but it will require more volunteers. So far Jamuel KM6HBO, Andy NG6W, David KJ6AAT, and Don NI6A have volunteered to help as Volunteer Examiners.

In the meantime, the next VE session in El Cerrito will be held Nov. 13th (associated with a technician class), but it is also an open opportunity for anyone who self-studies to get their license or upgrade

We need to spread this and other efforts out to more members to avoid burning out our small and dedicated core. Please ask how you can help.

### SET Video on YouTube

**We are looking for volunteers to take the lead producing a video documenting the Feb 23 SET** using assorted voice recordings, videos, photos, and narration. If you have any video editing or production skills (or you can recommend someone) please contact [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net) We need your help -- don't be shy.

### CERT SET YouTube Video

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

### ELMERING

**Elmering/Mentoring** is available by request. Email [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

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## KAROECHO.Net Website

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Especially, check out the EVENTS Page ( <https://www.karoecho.net/events> ) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ◆ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ◆ If you haven't already filled out the JOIN form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ◆ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ◆ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world is at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u\\_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV\\_rxWF1WjCgW\\_I/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view)
- ◆ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ◆ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!  
**On every Thursday evening net** there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at <https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events>
- ◆ Note: See the **KARO ECHO Agenda** for our upcoming Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting see: <https://www.karoecho.net/events> the agenda will be made available no later than the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.
- ◆ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)